

## SUMMARY

**Subject of the thesis:** Relations between Greece and Turkey in the Context of Contemporary Geopolitical Processes in the Balkans

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**The relevance of the research issue** is to deepen the knowledge in the issues of nature and types of international conflicts, as well as the phenomenon of geopolitics.

**The purpose** of the work is to define the role of the Greek-Turkish relations in the context of modern processes in the Balkans.

**The research objectives:**

- to learn the concepts and approaches to the study of geopolitics;
- to consider the role of the Balkans in the global geopolitical processes;
- to examine the historical context of the tension in the Greek-Turkish relations;
- to observe the development of the Greek-Turkish relations in the modern geopolitical processes in the Balkans.

**The scientific novelty** of research qualification work is:

- the current stage of the Cyprus and Aegean conflict development is analysed;
- the forecast of the Greek-Turkish relations development in the context of geopolitical processes in the Balkans in the modern political situation in Turkey is conducted;
- a number of generalizations and conclusions, which can play a positive role in the overall process of peaceful resolution of the complex processes taking place on the territory of the both sides are formulated.

**The structure** of the final qualifying work reflects the logic of the research and subject to the decision of the set tasks. The work consists of introduction, two chapters, which include four paragraphs, conclusion, applications, and bibliographic references. The total volume of the bibliography is comprised of 174 sources, including 69 sources in the foreign languages. The total amount of the work is 109 pages of typewritten text.

**Summary:** The territory of the Balkans has always been considered a place of dangerous inter-ethnic, inter-confessional and inter-state conflicts, as this region was formed as a specific contact area located at the intersection of transcontinental communications and regional systems of Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East, where Islam and Christianity, Eastern Orthodoxy and Catholicism meet each other. Having such an important geo-strategic role, the Balkans acted as a tool of implementation of arrogant plans of great powers many times, which subsequently led to conflicts not only at the regional level, but even globally. The Greek-Turkish conflict is one of those phenomena in the world history that has been attracting close attention of the international community for quite a long period of time. The problem of relations between Greece and Turkey has touched to some extent upon all European countries, Council of Europe, NATO, and EU. Practically all the secretaries-General of the UN have tried to solve the problem of the Cyprus and Aegean conflict, which indicates the permanent relevance of this issue for international relations.

Although it took a long time, this problem is still the stumbling block in the Greek-Turkish relations, and all attempts to resolve it are still not successful, therefore, the relevance of the study of Greek-Turkish relations in the context of modern processes in the Balkans is still exists. The issue of Greek-Turkish relations is considered as Balkan situation of tension: the escalation of the conflict between two countries threatens to further worsen of the situation in the Balkans. Besides the relevance is increasing as Turkey's policy has changed in the framework of neo-Ottomanism that thereby leads to an escalation of existing conflicts between these countries. Meanwhile, not only ethnic and confessional differences lie in the basis of the Greek-Turkish conflict. A certain role was played by the American administration, NATO, and some countries of Western Europe. Creating the southern flank of NATO, the authorities of the alliance definitely knew about interstate disagreements between Turkey and Greece, and surely could anticipate serious complications in this situation. On the contrary, the direction of the USA and NATO skillfully playing on the Greek-Turkish disagreements and contradictions, eventually solving their own tasks, managed to drag both countries into the alliance and to place on their territories military bases.

In spite of the fact that Hellenism and Turkism have huge domestic potentials, they cannot effectively resist external pressure as they present nationalist doctrines by nature. Hence there are well-known "zigzags" in the foreign policy directions, including so-called "special" positions of Greece and Turkey in NATO.

The most realistic solution of the Aegean problem is offered by the European Union. It proclaims that the Greek-Turkish controversies about the Aegean Sea must be solved exclusively in a peaceful way, through mutual negotiations, with respect for national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of these countries.

The same approach, as practice has shown, should be applied in the resolution of the Cyprus problem. The supporters of nationalist doctrines of Hellenism and pan-Turkism tried to solve for the Cypriots the issue of peaceful coexistence of two different ethnic groups in different ways (enosis and taksim), but essentially with the same result - the deprivation of the territorial integrity and independence of the Cyprus Republic.

The foreign policy of modern Turkey in the Balkans is developing in the framework of the ideology of neo-Ottomanism to resolve the Aegean conflict in its favor. Ankara stimulates diplomatic support to the Northern neighbours of Greece: Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo and Bulgaria, thereby creating anti-Greek alliance of the countries that border with Greece, which significantly increases the tension of the Greek-Turkish relations, and may cause escalation of the Cyprus and Aegean conflict.

Supporting equally Albania and FYROM, Turkey hopes for their support in respect of its foreign policy direction. In case of coming to power of a liberal government in Turkey, the most probable scenario is the escalation of ethnic tensions in FYROM between the Slavic and Albanian ethnic groups, because currently the Turkish factor is a deterrent one in the Slavonic-Albanian conflict.